

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 and 16-25 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 17 and 18 have been amended, support for which is found throughout the originally filed specification, for example, paragraphs [0017]-[0019], (paragraphs [0055]-[0061] of the instant pre-grant publication US 2007/0172961). Furthermore, claims 19-25 have been added, and are supported by original claims 1-15 and further in paragraphs [0017]-[0019] of the originally filed specification, (paragraphs [0055]-[0061] of the instant pre-grant publication US 2007/0172961).

No new matter has been added.

Applicants note that no prior art rejections were made in the office action mailed May 11, 2010. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, thereby making them allowable. Therefore, the amendments should be entered and the application be passed to issue.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 4 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's suggestion on page 3 of the office action, and have amended claim 1 accordingly to recite a step between steps A and B that requires adjusting the pH in the said liquid mixture to be a pH of less than the isoelectric point pI of the reagent. As noted above, support for this amendment is found throughout the originally filed specification, for example, in paragraphs [0017]-[0019], (paragraphs [0055]-[0061] of the instant pre-grant publication US 2007/0172961). It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 1 obviates the rejection and therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable. Furthermore, claims 4 and 16-18 depend from and further define the subject matter of claim 1 and therefore should also be allowable.

New Claims 19-25

Claims 19-25 have been added. Claims 19-20 depend from and further define the subject matter of claim 1 and therefore should be allowable.

Independent claim 21, like, independent claim 1, is supported throughout the specification, for example in paragraphs [0017]-[0019], (paragraphs [0055]-[0061] of the instant pre-grant publication US 2007/0172961). Furthermore, claims 22-25 are also supported by the paragraphs [0017]-[0019] of the specification, (paragraphs [0055]-[0061] of the instant pre-grant publication US 2007/0172961). Therefore, claims 21-25 should also be allowable.

Conclusion


In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments should be entered, this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned is requested.

Application No: 10/588,546

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

for  58,958
Michael E. Fogarty
Registration No. 36,139

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 MEF: ASA
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: June 3, 2010

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as our correspondence address.**